

What is claimed is:

1. A batting system for use by a batter at a batting position comprising:
a baseball hopper for location proximate the batting position;
a pitching machine at a pitching position spaced from the batting position for pitching baseballs toward the batting position, and
a baseball transport for receiving baseballs from the baseball hopper and delivering the baseballs to the pitching machine.
2. The batting system of claim 1 further comprising a cage surrounding the batting position and having an opening oriented toward the pitching machine such that a baseball when pitched enters the cage through the opening of the cage.
3. The batting system of claim 1 further comprising a ball collection receiver proximate the batting position, and having an opening to receive a pitched baseball from the pitching machine
4. The batting system of claim 1 wherein the baseball transport includes a ball conveyor and a ball escapement in communication with one another and with the hopper for delivering baseballs seriatim to the pitching machine
5. The batting system of claim 4 wherein the ball conveyor includes a pneumatic system.
6. The batting system of claim 5 further comprising an airlock between the ball escapement and the ball conveyor.
7. The batting system of claim 4 wherein the ball escapement includes a pivoted gate.
8. The batting system of claim 1 further including a plurality of baseballs of identical geometry and construction, each having a foam core and a covering integrally molded with the foam core.

9. The batting system of claim 1 further including a controller coupled to the pitching machine for location proximate the batting position
10. A batting system comprising:
 - a baseball hopper;
 - a pitching machine, and
 - a baseball transport having a ball conveyor for moving baseballs from the baseball hopper to the pitching machine
11. The batting system of claim 10 wherein the ball conveyor includes a pneumatic system.
12. The batting system of claim 11 wherein the baseball transport includes a ball escapement
13. The batting system of claim 12 wherein the ball escapement includes a pivoted gate
4. The batting system of claim 10 further including a plurality of baseballs of identical geometry and construction, each having a foam core and a covering integrally molded with the foam core
15. A golf/batting range comprising:
 - at least one batting system having a baseball hopper; a pitching machine, and a baseball transport having a ball conveyor for moving baseballs from the baseball hopper to the pitching machine; and
 - at least one golf station wherein the at least one batting system and the at least one golf station share a common field.
16. A method of making a baseball for use with a pitching machine comprising the steps of:
 - molding an open cell flexible foam into a baseball whereby the foam is given an integrally formed cover over a core, the cover being harder than the core

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the molding is accomplished by an integral foam forming process.
18. A baseball for use with a pitching machine comprising:
an open cell flexible foam molded to create a cover surrounding an inner core, the cover being harder than the inner core.
19. The baseball of claim 18 wherein the open cell foam is molded by an integral foam process.
20. The baseball of claim 18 wherein the cover has dimples to improve its flight trajectory characteristics.
21. The baseball of claim 18 wherein the cover has a color classified as strong, brilliant, or vivid.
22. The baseball of claim 21 wherein the color is selected from the group consisting essentially of yellow, red, and orange.